

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. 1. A method for enhancing the use of the Internet, comprising:
 2. installing software into an Internet connection device to enable said connection device to add a link to an e-mail message requesting a recipient of the e-mail to place a telephone call to a designated telephone number; and
 5. wherein said link includes information to enable the e-mail recipient to download a computer program into the e-mail recipient's computer to facilitate the placing of said telephone call from the e-mail recipient's computer.
 2. 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said Internet connection device is a personal computer.
 1. 3. A method of communication utilizing the Internet, comprising:
 2. receiving on a server an e-mail message transmitted from a first computer, which e-mail message includes a request to an intended recipient of the e-mail for a return telephone call to a telephone number designated in the e-mail;
 5. transmitting said e-mail message to a second computer specified in an address associated with said e-mail message, and including in said e-mail transmission the address of a gatekeeper, said gatekeeper adapted to supply an address of a gateway through which a telephone call originated on said second computer may be routed to said telephone number designated in said e-mail message.
 1. 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said gatekeeper is further adapted to confirm authentication information supplied in the e-mail about the e-mail user sending the e-mail.

1 5. A method of providing communications, comprising:
2 receiving on a first server an e-mail transmission from a first Internet connection
3 device originated by a first e-mail user, said e-mail transmission including a link which
4 when displayed on a second Internet connection device enables a second e-mail user of said
5 second Internet connection device to initiate voice communication between said second
6 Internet connection device and a telephone number specified in said link;
7 transmitting said e-mail message from said first server to an address of said second
8 Internet connection device; and
9 generating a telephone call from said second Internet connecting device to said
10 telephone number.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said second Internet connection device obtains from
2 a gatekeeper the address of a gateway through which said telephone call may be connected
3 to said telephone number.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein said first Internet connection device is a personal
2 computer.

1 8. The method of claim 5 wherein said second Internet connection device is a personal
2 computer.